

Minister Takes Issue With Editor Over Augusta Story

Editor, Chicago Defender:

For the past three weeks, I have been reading with great interest, the column entitled: "Dustin' Off the News," edited by Mr. Lucius Harper, that appears weekly in the Chicago Defender. I have always admired Mr. Harper as a very militant Negro, and am just a bit disappointed that after being away from his hometown for thirty years has had not one word of praise to say about the progress that has been made by the people that are a part of his nativity.

In his first series of articles, his column is headed: "I return home after thirty years." In this article, he deplores the fact that the Negroes here have made no progress. I hate to believe that Mr. Harper was too stupid to notice that the Negroes have some fine business enterprises operating in Augusta, and I don't think that there is anything built by a Negro in Chicago that is any more modern in construction than The Pilgrim Health & Life Insurance Co. The Negroes voted in 1946 for the first time in 38 years in a Democratic Primary, and have endorsed a Negro candidate to run for a member of the City Council, in a ward in which the Negroes outnumber the whites. All of this seems to be progress.

As far as segregation is concerned, the same week Mr. Harper wrote his article relative to the segregation in the South, and how the sales girl spoke to the Negro girls — which I doubt if there is any truth in this story — The Defender carried a story on how the Ku Klux Klan had burned the homes of Negro residents in Park Manor, Chicago. So you see Mr. Harper didn't really have to come to Augusta and the South to find segregation.

In the second article of the series, I agree with Mr. Harper on this thought about Negro lawyers are needed in the South. The white lawyers have become wealthy from overcharging their clients, who are ignorant and fearful. Negroes are constantly beaten out of their little homes, their land, and other securities that are justly theirs by some scheming lawyer of the white race. In the third article, he suggests that the Negro in the South should visit Cuba in order to "feel

free for 10 days.' I wonder does Mr. Harper kid himself into believing that he is "Free." As long as the Defender carries headlines each week on some fight that Negroes are making for a chance to live in a neighborhood where whites live, and how they are bombed out; how they are turned down on jobs, segregated in schools and public places in Springfield, Ill., the home of the Democratic governor, that Mr. Harper takes pride in saying he helped elect, Mr. Harper will have to go farther than Cuba for freedom.

Yes, the Negro in the South has to a great extent made himself SATISFIED to accept segregation and discrimination, but in so doing owns his own home, rides in his own car, unlocks his own business places, while the Negro in the North might not suffer as much from segregation as the Negro in the South, but he still is not free, and neither does he own his own home, and does quite a bit of bus and "L" riding, and only unlocks the doors to the Greeks, Jews and other white people that own the business, and uses the Negro as a front-man for business.

Mr. Harper, the people in your hometown think well of you, and feel a bit disappointed that you could find nothing pleasant to say about your trip. If you will entertain the Augustans when they visit Chicago half as well as a few of them here tried to entertain you, I am sure that you will do a fine job. And remember with your ability, you should own the Chicago Defender, or a paper of its rating in thirty years. You know you have had far more to work with in Chicago than we have here in Augusta. Respectfully yours, Rev. D. W. Bouie, 1241 Mauge st., Augusta, Ga.

A Story Worth Telling

Marvelous Progress Made By Negroes Of Mississippi

(The following editorial from the Tupelo (Miss.) Journal was reproduced in the Gulf Breeze, official organ of the Production Credit Corporation of which Jesse B. Hearin is president.)

Their story, too, is worth telling.

Southern senators and governors are working on a publicity campaign to convince the rest of the nation that the South isn't quite as bad as some of our Northern critics contend.

Exactly how the information regarding Dixie's progress will be presented hasn't yet been decided.

But somewhere in the program should be included a word of praise for the Negroes, themselves, who during the 85 years since they gained their freedom have made greater progress than any other people in history.

Compare, for example, the achievements of Mississippi Negroes since 1863 with those of the people of Russia since they were freed from serfdom two years earlier.

When the Russian czar released that country's peasants from bondage, he gave all of them a portion of the land they had been working.

Mississippi Negroes, by contrast, not only were given no land when freed, but were actually barred by state law from renting any.

Yet today the one million Negroes in Mississippi own more farms and business firms than all the 180 million Russians combined.

Only a few years ago Mississippi Negroes owned more automobiles than all the people in Russia. And on the basis of the best estimates available, they still own more modern conveniences like refrigerators and washing machines than the Soviet Union's entire population of 180 million people.

The South has long been the butt of northern finger-pointing. And it's good to see our senators and governors launch a constructive information campaign to tell the rest of the world of our achievements.

But just as the South has always been blamed with most of what's wrong with America, so has the South in turn blamed Negroes for its own shortcomings.

And it's just possible that Mississippi Negroes are as hungry for a word of praise from their white neighbors as is the rest of the South to appear in a more favorable light before the people of the North and East.

Thus while our leaders are trying to offset Yankee criticism with the story of Dixie progress, they well might mention that southern Negroes are moving steadily up the economic ladder in spite of tremendous obstacles.

Consider for a moment these brief facts:

The grandfather of the typical Negro worker of today was a slave. He owned nothing. When he was freed just 85 years ago, he carried nothing with him into freedom—no land, no house, not even a plow or mule.

He started absolutely from scratch. And there was no land available to him for 50 cents an acre such as had awaited earlier white settlers of our state.

Without education, land or tools 85 years ago, the Negroes of Mississippi today own farms, run stores, render professional services, drive automobiles and enjoy radios and other modern conveniences.

It is true that they have not caught up with the white residents of our state in any of these categories. But neither have Mississippi whites caught up with the rest of the nation in prosperity since our state was left in ruin by the Civil War and reconstruction.

At the time of the last census 24,000 Negro families in Mississippi owned farms of their own. Another 23,000 owned homes in town. And today both figures are considerably higher.

During the last 15 years, according to the Southern Regional Council, 27 per cent of the South's Negro share-croppers have lifted themselves by their bootstraps into farm ownership.

Thus while the peasants of Russia have lost every acre of land given them at the time they were freed from serfdom, the Negroes of Mississippi have during the same period risen from a totally landless class to a position where one family out of four owns its own home or farm.

The magnitude of this progress becomes clearer when it is recalled that few more than half the white families of Mississippi are property owners.

While our political leaders are shaping their publicity campaign outlining southern progress, therefore, it would be worth their while to emphasize such statements as the following by Dr. H. H. Humes, editor of the Negro newspaper, The Delta Leader:

"The writer has taken observation in recent months of the advancement and thriftiness of Negro people in the state of Mississippi as compared to those in northern, and even other southern states.

"Despite what other people say and believe about Mississippi Negroes, there are in Mississippi some of the most progressive Negro citizens that you will find in any area of America.

"Negro people in Mississippi own and operate independently more farms than those in any other state in America. When you compare the ability of the Negro people of our state with that of others economically, they are a long way from being at the foot of the economic ladder."

Editorials

CITIZEN JOE ON BROTHERHOOD WEEK

(Specially prepared for Brotherhood Week, Feb. 20-27)

By REV. WILLIAM C. KERNAN

Sometimes I hear and read things which sound to me as if some people in our country have a very low opinion of it. They talk about nothing but our faults as if that is all there is in America to talk about. I admit we have faults. But—look at the progress we have made in overcoming them. We're not standing still. We're going ahead. Under the Fatherhood of God, the Creator of us all, there is a real American Brotherhood in the making.

I'm for that—and I believe in talking about what a good country America is—and about what we're doing to make it a better country for everyone regardless of race, religion, or class.

That's why I like something which Alexander F. Miller said recently about the progress for a better America that is being made in the South. Mr. Miller is the director of the Southeastern Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

He said that "the South made important strides forward in 1948 towards resolving its problems of group tensions." And he proved it by the following facts:

"The failure of the Ku Klux Klan to achieve any real impact in the South outside the state of Georgia, despite sporadic attempts at organization in Birmingham, Knoxville, and Orlando.

"The vigorous fight waged by Southern newspaper editors against the Ku Klux Klan and similar organizations.

"The courageous stand taken by church leaders not only against 'hooded terrorists who desecrate the cross' but also for the extension of the frontiers of democracy so that all groups might enjoy the benefits guaranteed to them under the Constitution.

"The action taken by many city councils in Georgia and neighboring states in passing ordinances prohibiting the appearance on their streets and in public places of masked or hooded individuals.

"Rejection by the voting public of all but two anti-Semites and anti-Catholics who ran for office during the past elections; and the rejection by Gov. J. Strom Thurmond and the States Rights Party of proffers of assistance from hatemonger Gerald L. K. Smith and his financial angel, George W. Armstrong, wealthy Fort Worth Texan.

"The speedy arrest, conviction and sentence to life imprisonment of two white men in rural Alabama for raping a Negro woman.

"The realization by more and more Southern leaders that with their espousal of states rights goes the corollary of states responsibility.

"The continued extension of the franchise to both Whites and Negroes. Negroes now vote in large numbers in practically every urban community and most rural areas in the South.

"The increasing awareness by Southerners of the complexity of their minority problems and the necessity of solving them justly if American ideals of democracy are to persevere abroad.

"The election of an increased number of progressive governors and congressmen in Southern states."

That's worth talking about when we observe Brotherhood Week this year. It's a good example of what can be done—of what is being done. I hope that every American and the people of every community in our country will do their best to make 1949 a banner year for brotherhood in these United States.

Northern Reaction

On the next page (3B) is re-printed an article on progress in Negro Education written by Dr. Clarence M. Dannelly for the nationally circulated "Christian Advocate."

Montgomery's progress is the basis of

the article but the pattern of progress in Montgomery is duplicated widely in the South.

Already Dr. Dannelly has begun receiving letters about the article from widely scattered sources. The tone of the letters emphasizes the fact that a reasoned presentation of the facts of Southern life is more effective than the braying demagoguery (Horace Wilkinson style) taken so often by so-called Southern political leaders. For instance, this is a comment from Dr. A. E. Barnett of Northwestern University (Chicago):

"Splendid progress . . . this kind of a report to the nation is the only constructive rejoinder for Southern leaders to make to criticisms from without whether such criticism be hostile or simply unintelligent. Your article will go far in creating understanding."

And this comes from the Reverend J. M. Etheredge, pastor of a Methodist Church in Lewellen, Nebraska:

"Sitting here in my study in a Methodist parsonage in the deep snow of western Nebraska I have just read your article in The Christian Advocate concerning Negro education in your territory. How fine the progress you have made, how well you have said it, and how fine to have that dispensed to Nebraska and other cities of the West and North . . .

"On Race Relationship Sunday, and between times, I am telling people that Georgia's attitude toward the Negro, Texas' attitude toward the Mexican, and California's attitude toward the Japanese are all about like Nebraska's attitude toward the Indian. The difference is that Nebraska has the Indian at hand to live with. I also tell them that as the Negro is coming north and west they are very much inclined to treat them after the Southern custom which they condemn."

A number of other letters reflect the same point of view.

We can hope that this and other sensible work by Southern leaders will someday complete the education of the North.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

by Cardell W. McVickers

The distinction of being the

most 'degreed' man of modern times goes to affable Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, director of the Division of Trusteeship, United Nations.

Thus far seven schools of higher learning have conferred honorary degrees upon him. Rutgers University Sunday gave him the degree, doctor of laws. The day before, he was awarded the doctor of Hebrew letters degree from Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati.

Prior to that the University of Pennsylvania, Fisk, Syracuse and Howard universities had cited him, as had the New York School of Social Research.

'Father of The Year'

He was selected as 'father of the year' by the National Fathers' Day Committee. He will be awarded the Springarn Medal during annual NAACP convention. He will be given the Russworm Award by the Negro Newspaper Publishers' Association June 17. And he was honored on "Dr. Ralph J. Bunche" day by Bronx County, N.Y.

This doesn't take into consideration the countless number of addresses he has been called upon to deliver since his return from the Near East. And all of this has happened at the time he was supposed to be getting his much needed rest.

And speaking of academic honors, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of laws by Wheaton College, Norton, Mass., in absentia. The Ethiopian minister to the United States accepted for the emperor.

Harvard in News

Staid old Harvard University appears in the commencement picture. Three prominent alumni have been selected to act as aides and marshals at the Massachusetts school's 298th commencement on June 23.

They are: Chester M. Pierce, '48, Glen Cove, L.I., now a student in the Harvard Medical School; Ralph E. MacD. Johnston, '35, Boston, secretary of the Governor's Council in Massachusetts; and Earl L. Brown, '24, NYC, staff member of Life Magazine.

Dr. Catherine Lealtad, formerly of St. Paul, Minn., has been awarded the honorary doctor of laws degree by Macalester College, St. Paul. The first Heritage award at the New Jersey College for Women, Rutgers University, went to Misses Emma D. Andrews, 21, Plainfield, N. J., and Evelyn Sermons, 21, Summerville. Both are graduated this year.

Church Delegate

The Rev. Arthur D. Gray, pas-

tor of Chicago's Church of the Good Shepherd, will be an American delegate to the International Council of Congregational Churches at Wellesley College, Mass., June 17-24. . . . The Rev. E. W. Perry, vice president of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., addressed the 92nd annual convention of the white Southern Baptist Convention at Oklahoma City. All previous speakers have been white.

Roland Hayes, the tenor, has been presented with the Palm of Officer d'Academie by the French Government. The presentation was made at Boston during an elaborate ceremony in the French consulate. . . . First of his race in the 29-year history of the Portland, Oregon Boy Scout council, Raleigh Washington, 16, won an Eagle Scout badge last week.

E. Sims Campbell, the artist, has been elected to the board of the Victory Mutual Life Insurance Co. . . . Starting from scratch as share croppers in 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davis of Monticello, Miss., now own a 111-acre farm, thanks to an FHA loan.

EISENHOWER HAILS PROGRESS OF NEGRO

New York Times

Calls 85-Year Achievement the
Greatest of History as He
Dedicates Harlem Y. M. C. A.

Mon. 9-26-49

DEMOCRACY AT ITS BEST

President of Columbia Says
Structure Is Investment
in the Nation's Future

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, president of Columbia University, declared yesterday that no people in the history of man "have come so far on the road to understanding citizenship and culture in eighty-five years as has the Negro race."

He spoke to an audience of 10,000 persons who witnessed the dedication of the boys' building of the Harlem Y. M. C. A. at 181 West 135th Street. The building, which is six stories high and was renovated at a cost of \$275,000, was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Peyton F. Anderson, chairman of the board of managers of the Harlem Branch of the Y. M. C. A. from 1930 to 1945.

Calling the building an example of "Americanism at its best," General Eisenhower said it was "an investment in the future of America."

"One reason for my great interest in this annex is what it represents in governmental life," he went on. "There is a trend in the world that if there is a difficult job to do, we say let the Government do it. By that we are forsaking our principles. We must practice democracy if it is to endure."

"In seeking a definition of democracy this one satisfies me best: democracy is a political expression of deeply felt religion. We are fallible. We certainly haven't attained perfection. But we can strive for it and the virtue is in the striving."

There are people called agitators, General Eisenhower said, who would have us forsake some of our liberties and freedoms in return for what they call "Federal security."

"These agitators hope to create a condition where they can get power," he continued. One of those they are always attacking is the Negro. But the 10 per cent of our population which is Negro has held

fast. They have their representatives under crosses and they have never hesitated to spill their blood for their country."

Frank M. Totton, president of the Y.M.C.A. of the City of New York, also spoke. Alan L. Dingle, chairman of the board of managers of the Harlem Branch, presided.

Old Levees Are Crumbling

"I stood as a boy near the banks of the levee in New Orleans during flood time one day and watched workmen as they frantically dashed to and fro attempting to stem the mad Father of Waters as it seeped over and through the weakened embankment. As the muddy waters surged the laborers improvised the broken level of the earth with huge sacks of sand and at times it appeared as though the vast deluge of water rushing towards the sea would be contained within its banks," said Prof. A. S. Jackson, Marshall, Texas, last Thursday night as he addressed the fifteenth annual session of the Oklahoma Conference of Branches, NAACP.

"But despite the herculean efforts of those hundreds of laborers who futilely sought to control the raging waters of the Mississippi, I stood that day and saw the old levees crumble and the angry torrents submerged the Crescent City. Man had to surrender to the onrushing forces of nature that would not be contained," the speaker continued.

The noted Texan then turned to his audience and said, "Somehow, it appears to me that the wave of liberalism and brotherhood that is sweeping across this nation at the present time can be likened to the angry waters of the Mississippi as it flooded the streets and homes of New Orleans in my early youth. Old levees were crumbling when a white school down in Mississippi recently refused to accept fifty millions dollars, which had tied to it the vicious string of white supremacy and race hate. Old levees were crumbling when a Negro girl entered the medical school in Arkansas and more than fifty Negro students attended your two white universities in Oklahoma this summer."

The speaker went on and on to draw an apt picture of what is happening in America today in the field of brotherhood, and while he talked there was obvious evidence of a new type of brotherhood on the part of official Okmulgee. Mayor W. E. Woods arrived for the meeting, extended a hearty welcome and remained through the entire evening to receive the benefit of black thinking and understanding. This unquestionably was another break in the levee of white prejudice, for usually when the chief executive of a city condescends to visit a Negro meeting he makes a few remarks and hurries away to other more important tasks. But Mayor Woods came, he spoke kindly to the visitors within Okmulgee's gates, and remained through the entire meeting.

And all over the Southland old levees are crumbling. The Memphis Commercial Appeal recently announced in its columns that hereafter the term Negro would be capitalized. In increasingly large numbers more and more white newspapers in the South are beginning to dignify the term "Negro" with capitalization, and few there are now of the older publications clinging to the idea and concept that "Mr." and "Mrs." should not be appendant to a black man or woman's name.

A peculiar slant in the psychology of the white man has hitherto been that he would rather claim kinship to a Negro than to call him Mister. That is why he easily fell into the habit of calling Negroes uncle and aunty. It was an escape

from dignifying the black man with the rank and honor he gives himself. Despite the fact that in conservative circles of the nation high credit is given to the black woman who was foreman of the jury that convicted the eleven Communists in the Foley Square trial, daily papers in New Orleans religiously saw to it that this black woman's name appeared in their publications minus the prefix "Mrs." Despite the New Orleans holdout, old levees of prejudice that refuse to elevate the black man to the level of human equality, are surely crumbling, as exposed in the attitude of many outstanding publications. We know a leading Oklahoma daily, that for many years refused to publish the picture of a Negro. This same publication now carries two or three Negro photographs almost weekly.

But the embankments of prejudice were really crumbling when recently at the University of Oklahoma a poll of the institution showed around 90 per cent of the faculty and 76 per cent of the student body the total abolition of the physical barrier approving of segregation. Here we have a clear picture of the onrush of liberalism and social decency as it springs from the conscience of 1949 white Oklahoma. Truly moral waters are gushing over the dam in this recent poll of university thinking.

Perhaps nothing that has happened in recent years so shocked the white man into sense of his immediate responsibility as the uncompromising utterances of Premier Nehru when he recently visited in this country. We have it direct from the lips of the greatest ruler in Asia that dark people look with suspicion upon America so long as America persists in its sub-standard program of citizenship for its nationals of color. This truth has not yet leaked through to the ordinary Nordic with whom black men rub shoulders every day, but in the control centers of this nation American leadership sees a clear and present danger in the distrust 350 million brown men apparently have of white integrity and honor.

Do you remember the poet who said "I would rather see a sermon than to hear one any day"? In that one sentence this wise man was saying that actions speak louder than words. Americans have been parroting about democracy in every corner of the world. But our mutterings and murmurings are discounted by our actions. Our Jim Crow regiments we have sent into Asia, our extra-territoriality in China, and our colonialism in Indonesia have outpreached any language we employ.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

by Cardell W. McVickers

Many firsts, some on the news. Cecil F. Boone, native of Pittsburgh and a Harvard law school graduate, became San Francisco's first assistant district attorney. Appointed by District Attorney Edmund G. Brown, he was assigned to the municipal court division in the Hall of Justice.

Mrs. Mattie Rundles, now on the staff of the Baptist hospital, Jackson, Miss., on May 2 will be the first colored nurse to work at the U.S. Veterans hospital in the same city. She's a native of Hazelhurst, Miss. . . . Dr. Hugh N. Sims, a Wichita, Kans., dentist, became the first of his race in that city to be elected a member of the school board. He polled 10,354 votes to run sixth in a field of 16 candidates.

Edward Washington was sworn in as a petit juror at Dallas, Texas, the first colored resident to serve in the history of the city. He works in the postoffice. . . . Frank M. Summers of Springfield, Ill., has been appointed State commissioner of the Court of Claims, the first in history. Appointed by Gov. Adlai Stevenson, he's 55 and a life long Democrat.

The first insured mortgage loans to colored South Carolina farmers under the Farmers Home Administration went to Ulysses Fulmore and Walter McFadden of Williamsburg County. The money was supplied by the N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Co., Durham. It was the first loan of this type in the 50-year history of the company, according to President C. C. Spaulding.

Colored citizens may now use the city-owned Miami Springs golf course, it has been decided by City Manager O. P. Hart. The move averted a planned court action by Miami golfers to gain use of the court. Talk now is that the city will build a course for the exclusive use of colored golfers. . . . Alex Flennoy of Flint, Mich., has been elected mayor of Boyssville, the Michigan counterpart of Boyssville, Neb. The institution is operated by the Catholic Brothers of the Holy Cross relate.

White teen-agers from Courtland County, N.Y., spent four days at the homes of colored, Japanese-American and Jewish high schoolers in NYC last week. The minority groups visited them a year ago. Two bills which failed to pass two years ago, sailed through the California Assembly last week. One would outlaw jim crow automobile insurance, the other racial discrimination in the California National Guard.

The Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Co., will celebrate its 51st anniversary at Augusta, Ga., May 2 with the dedication of its new home office building. . . . Citations for distinguished journalism careers will be awarded C. A. Franklin, editor, Kansas City Call, and Joseph E. Mitchell, editor, St. Louis Argus, at Lincoln University (Mo.) May 3. The awards are sponsored by the Lincoln School of Journalism.

Arna W. Bontemps, chief librarian, Fisk University, was among the 144 Guggenheim fellows, whose names have been listed for awards. Bontemps is to do a three-way biography of Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois. . . . Marian Anderson, in her farewell concert appearance before sailing for Europe, sang "Eli, Eli" the Jewish song at Carnegie Hall, NYC, April 24.

To Do Biographies

Arna W. Bontemps, chief librarian, Fisk University, was among the 144 Guggenheim fellows, whose names have been listed for awards. Bontemps is to do a three-way biography of Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois. . . . Marian Anderson, in her farewell concert appearance before sailing for Europe, sang "Eli, Eli" the Jewish song at Carnegie Hall, NYC, April 24.

Report Reviews Rapid Rise Of Negro During Past 35 Years

centers both in the south and north.

The report gives two types of factors as the cause of the Negro's climb. Under the general group, the accepted opinion of modern science stands out. Inescapable is the factor that there is no question today of the superior and inferior ability of races. The Negro is a full member of the human race. Given the same opportunities as the white man he is capable of the same progress, and of manifesting the same abilities. However, this does not mean the Negro today is, generally speaking, as advanced as the white man it points out. Not to be ignored are various historical, economic, and educational conditions.

The volume, authored by Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes, president-emeritus, with a foreword by Dr. Channing H. Tobias, the present director, contains the reports of the three men who during almost the whole period of the fund's history have been mainly responsible for its policies and work: Dr. Stokes himself associated with the fund since its founding 35 years ago; Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, recent director, who served for 33 years and L. A. Roy who served as executive secretary for 29 years.

The progress of the Negro, as true with all minority groups, is related directly with his education, the report points out. Statistics quoted from the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute show that in education the Negro had a 20 percent gain in literacy from 1911 to 1945, a 30-fold increase of students in college courses, nearly the same amount of those in professional courses and a five-fold increase in annual expenditures for Negro education. The report relates that perhaps the most outstanding gain came in the number of Negro high schools from under 100 to more than 1,000.

Despite the general low economic level of the colored man today, statistics show this is a remarkable increase from 1910. That year he conducted 20,000 businesses. Between 1940-45, he rated 57,195. During the same period, he increased his home ownership from 500,000 to 719,771. His one decline in this era was in farms which showed a decrease of about 50,000. This, the report points out, stemmed from the migration of rural Negroes to urban centers both in the south and north.

Henry Pryor, 25-year old Rutgers University student, has been elected captain of the school's Scabbard and Blade, national honorary military society. He's the first colored member in the history of the organization. Two weeks ago, Pryor, a Marine veteran, took first place in the student council primary elections, polling more than 1,000 votes.

Clifford F. Johnson of Kenosha, Wis., graduate student at the University of Oregon's journalism school, placed second in the 8th annual essay contest sponsored by the White American Newspaper Publishers Association.

The University of Arkansas will have its first colored professor this fall. He's Dr. Elbert Lee Tatum of St. Louis, presently professor at Stowe Teachers College.

On Education Board

Christopher P. Blythewood, a funeral director, elected to the Hempstead, L. I., board of education, is another 'first.' . . . Mrs. Minetti Breman, named principal of Detroit's Miller high school, is the first of her race to be appointed. She was the Motor City's first colored teacher. . . . The Rev.

Rollins E. Lambert will be ordained in Chicago May 7, the first Catholic priest of his race in the Chicago archdiocese. He will celebrate his first mass May 8 at St. Thomas, The Apostle Church. Francis L. Kelly has been appointed to the Glendale, O., village council by Mayor James R. Caruthers. . . . The Navy Department's safety division has cited James E. Woodland of Indian Head, Md., for having completed 16 years of accident-free driving. He has rolled up 180,233 miles without an accident. . . . Misses Francis Flipping and Mary Jones, Wilberforce U. students, have been added to the Youngstown, O., library staff, the first of their race appointed.

First Navy Aviator

Ensign Jesse Leroy Brown, 23, the Navy's first colored aviator, is serving with Squadron 32, aboard the USS Leyte at sea. He's a native of Hattiesburg, Miss. White students of Washington University, St. Louis, have organized a campaign to have colored students admitted to undergraduate schools. They are now admitted only to graduate courses. . . . The Harry Smith Oswald Award has been given Phi Kappa Psi fraternity of Amherst College by New England NAACP chapters. The chapter was dropped from the national organization for admitting a colored student.

published in the New York daily newspapers last week.

The report was reviewed by Dr. Anson Phelps Stokes, who served as chairman of the fund's educational committee for 35 years; Dr. Channing H. Tobias, director; and Dr. Frederick W. Rowe.

The fund was established in 1911 by gifts from Miss Caroline A. Stokes. A sister of the donor, Miss Olivia Stokes, doubted that significant in modern history, the 35th year report of the Phelps Stokes Fund, was extensively could rely on equally wise ad-

Negro Progress

Cited As Epic

By Stokes Fund

NEW YORK—Departing that the 1911 by gifts from Miss Caroline

Negro's progress is the most Stokes. A sister of the donor, significant in modern history, the 35th year report of the Phelps Stokes Fund, was extensively could rely on equally wise ad-

Stokes Fund, was extensively could rely on equally wise ad-

ministration in the distant future." Later she made possible, however, the foundation of the Booker Washington Agricultural and Industrial Institute in Kakata, Liberia, modeled after Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

The fund also supported the work of the late St. James Hardy Dillard, "a Southern gentleman and scholar, who in middle life turned from the academic teaching of white students in an important university to the development of Negro education."

SIGNS OF PROGRESS SIGNS OF PROGRESS

by *Dr. American*
Lardell W. McVickers

Institutions of higher learning are rapidly taking the place of the church in pointing the way to real democracy. Sherril Lee, 20, of Lawrence, Mo., was elected president of the student body at the University of California, Los Angeles. He topped his white opponent by 400 votes.

In the same school, J. Horace Hampton, 39, ex-marine, was elected president of the College of Agriculture. First elected on April 18, the voting was voided by the student elections committee on the grounds that candidates had violated school campaign expenditure rules. But the student came right back in the second vote and put Hampton in 515 to 371.

Student Congress President
Levi Thomas, already president of the junior class at the West Orange, N.J. high school, has been elected president of the school's student congress, the first of his race to win this honor. . . The Ohio State University chapter of Beta Sigma Tau, national interracial fraternity, has been admitted to the Council of Fraternity Presidents at Columbus. Chapters of the new fraternity are now active at the University of Cincinnati and Ohio Wesleyan.

Edward Mason, 26, Youngstown, O., William Gibson, 23, Taborn, N.C., and Edward Risher, 26, Washington, have been admitted to Washington's Gallinger Hospital as internes. Graduates of Howard, they are the first of their race to serve at Gallinger. . . The House Committee on Education in the Massachusetts State Legislature has urged creation of a division on false educational practices in the state department of education.

National Federation of Catholic College Students went on record at Chicago against "unwarranted discrimination against colored Catholics in the South." . . . The only colored school participating in the County High School of Hancock, Ala., won third place in the

annual Strawberry Festival Parade at Cullman, Ala. . . Louis Lamb, AFRO agent at St. Augustine, Fla., was summoned for jury duty, something new in this community. The new gymnasium of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lake Charles, La., has been named in honor of Miss Eleanor Figaro. She recently received the Papal medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice from Pope Pius XII. . . Dr. W. P. Devane has been sworn in as a member of the Fayetteville, N.C., city council, the first since Reconstruction days. . . Finis was written to Southern white primaries when the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting at Richmond, held the S.C. Democratic Party could no longer restrict membership to white voters.

FEPC Passes House
The Illinois House of Representatives, by 81 to 43, passed an FEPC bill, which now goes to the Senate. Gov. Adlai Stevenson has already promised to sign it. Spearheading the floor fight were Chicago's four colored House members: Charles Jenkins, (Rep.) Charles Skyles (Dem.) Noble W. Lee, (Rep.) and Fred J. Smith, (Dem.). . . Out of 3,016 persons applying for work, 1,858 were found employment by the Urban League of Greater New York. Its annual report discloses.

Many 'First' Appointments in Past Year
In the democratic progress of the nation many racial bars were hurdled in various fields during 1948. Among those chalking up "firsts" were:

Dr. C. L. Marshall of New Haven, Conn., appointed to the staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston; G. Bruce Robin-

son, a native of Washington, who was named special justice of the Boston Juvenile Court;

Mrs. Josephine Cole, 39, assigned to teach in the high school in San Francisco, Calif.; Miss Rebecca Johnson, promoted to a principalship in Springfield, Mass.; Dr. Harold Pierce, 25, appointed to the house staff of Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia;

Grid Prowess Pays Off
Miss Edna E. Young of Springfield, Mass., sworn into the Regular Navy; Levi Jackson, Yale University grid star, named captain of the football team for 1949; Frank S. Jones of Greensboro, N.C., appointed manager of the Harvard University football team for 1949;

For the first time in Indiana history a colored judge, Henry T. Richardson, presided over a murder trial; mixed election judges presided in a Fort Worth, Texas, precinct;

Naval Aviation Graduate
Jesse L. Brown of Hattiesburg, Miss., graduate from the Naval Aviation program, received his wings in October in Jacksonville, Fla.; Bertram L. Baker, 50, first assemblyman to be elected from Brooklyn, N.Y., to the State Legislature;

Dr. Ralph Bunche appointed United Nations acting mediator in the Palestine crisis; 2nd Lt. John E. Rudder, 23, of Paducah, Ky., became a Marine Corps officer; Percy J. Lancaster of Baldwin, Mich., elected county prosecutor for Lake County;

Mrs. Edith M. Alexander of New York, was a major party candidate for Presidential elector; Vernon Campbell was sworn in as Municipal Court clerk in New York City; **Vet Named to REA**

Joseph F. Douglas, 22, Air Force veteran, appointed to the Rural Electrification Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Miss Edith M. Irby, graduate of Knoxville College, admitted to the medical school at the Univer-

sity of Arkansas; G. W. McLaurin, 54, ex-professor, began studies, on a segregated basis, at the University of Oklahoma; Carl T. Rowan, University of Minnesota graduate, joined the editorial staff of the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.

With the merger of the Victory Cab Company and the Yellow Cab Company the first interracial business was established in Grand Rapids, Mich.; Edward Thornton Dixon, a former bomber pilot, was named to the military staff of Governor-Elect Chester Bowles in Connecticut as a major.

Baltimore, Md.
by *Dr. American*
Lardell W. McVickers

Even if no civil rights legislation has been enacted by that time, three Ohio congressmen have pledged that Ohio youngsters brought to Washington will not be segregated.

The pledge has been made by Congresswoman Frances Bolton and Congressmen Stephen Young and Robert Crosser. They assured the Cleveland Community Relations Board they would make it possible for colored youngsters not to be segregated in the annual safety pilgrimage of the Cleveland Automobile Club to Washington.

A clause in the leases which had limited occupancy of rented houses in Levittown, N.J., to "members of the caucasian race" has been eliminated. The policy change was announced by William Levitt, developer of the Long Island project which bears his name.

Loretto Academy, a Catholic high school for girls in Kansas City, Mo., saw its first colored graduate last week when Miss Carmen Forte, 17, was handed a diploma. . . The West Virginia Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, has decided to admit colored students eligible for degrees. Previously the Methodist institution had accepted colored enrollees for special or extension courses only.

Kentucky's racial barriers dropped another notch last week when David Jones Jr., representing the Louisville YMCA, competed in the Kentucky State Weightlifting Championships. He placed third in the middleweight division. Before Jones was entered, all other contestants had been white.

Degree To Mississippian
The honorary doctor of humane letters degree has been awarded W. L. Beard, white, by Natchez College. . . It was recorded as the first time an uncolored Mississippian

college had so honored a "white man" . . . Robert L. Brokenburr, former Indiana State senator, is the 1949 winner of the annual Hampton Alumni award for distinguished public service. He graduated in 1906 and is an alumni trustee.

Thirteen-year old Walter Spivey of Montclair, N.J., successfully defended his marble tournament championship for the third straight time. Runner-up was another colored lad, Robert Williams. . . Alston Scott is expected to become Miami's second colored mail carrier.

Honor Tuskegee Graduate
Christine Karol Norwood of Pittsburgh, a member of both the band and orchestra, was an honor graduate at Tuskegee Institute. . . Four \$900 scholarships have been awarded to the School of Music of the Brooklyn Free Musical Society. They went to: Miss Bertha Coleman, Mrs. Helen Lloyd, James Dean and Aurelius N. Curtis. They were selected from more than 100 applicants. Calvin Lay, 28, has become Detroit's chief fingerprint expert in the Identification Bureau of the Wayne County jail. He formerly was a private detective. . . C. Arnett Bibbins, youthful Norfolk lawyer, has launched his campaign for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. He's running as an independent.

Signs of Progress as We Enter the New Year
Dr. H. A. Gleason, chairman of the Hampton communications center, will be guest professor of English at New York University during the 1949 summer session. He received his doctorate at NYU in 1939. . . Dr. Phyllis Wallace is the first woman of her race to be appointed to the staff of the economics department of the Evening and Extension division at City College of Business, NYC. . . Theodore R. Britton Jr., Eugene Jones, Roy Sipes, Elliott Skinner and Walter Williams were the five dark faces noted in the NYU Glee Club during its first concert at Town Hall. . . Colored, Mexican and white students are enrolled without segregation in a barber college operated by colored people in Phoenix, Ariz., where segregation is the prevailing policy. . . The U.S. Office of Education has published "Education in Haiti" by Dr. Mercer Cook, professor of romance languages at Howard U. . . Stockholders of the Victory Loan Co. received dividend checks last week in the amount of \$6,000. . . A plaque has been presented Marian Anderson in recognition of her efforts for equal civil rights. It was the gift of the Griffith Music Foundation of which Mrs. Parker O. Griffith is president. The presentation was made at the formal opening of radio station WVNJ, Newark, N.J. . . NYC Patrolman Charles E. White was one of 11 policemen cited by Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallender for heroism. White, while off duty, fatally wounded a man who was pointing a revolver at the back of another man. . . He fired two shots during a chase. . . An interracial basketball game was played for the first time at Annapolis, Md., under the sponsorship of Father Thomas G. Eagan, white. . . Two colored players of St. Louis's St. Joseph's High School were named to the Catholic League All-Star Eleven. They were James Freeman, back, and Percy Dollard, guard.

Atlanta's Gains In 49 Recounted

BY C. LAMAR WEAVER

As Negro Atlanta looks toward the new year with renewed hope, a survey of 1948 showed many local achievements in social, civic and economic endeavors.

Among them included:

1. Hiring of Negro police
2. Teachers' Pay Victory
3. Increase in Voters
4. School Facilities Exposed
5. Hospital Expansion Announced

NEGRO POLICE HIRED

It was a long and tough uphill battle all the way toward having Negroes installed on the police force. It started many years ago as several organizations saw the acute need of its realization in stemming the tide of flagrant homicides and other crimes among the race. On April 3, eight Negro patrolmen began active duty in Negro communities of the city.

Significant facts which figured prominently in the development toward hiring the officers included a resolution introduced by City Councilman Ralph A. Huie calling for the employment of 8 Negro officers. The City Council adopted the measure by a 10-to-seven vote. The officers were subsequently sworn in by Police Chief H. T. Jenkins, who appointed Sgt. E. B. Brooks as their immediate superior. A suit to block the hiring of the officers was instituted by the late G. Herbert Yarn, white undertaker, who claimed it to be a violation of both state and federal constitutions. The suit was subsequently dismissed by Fulton Superior Court Judge Bond Almond.

The Negro officers have performed splendidly in their tours of duty, evoking the praise of many organizations including the County Grand Jury.

TEACHERS WIN PAY SUIT

Another significant victory for Atlanta Negroes was the favorable ruling handed down by U. S. District Court Judge E. Marvin Underwood, finding the Atlanta Board of Education guilty of practicing discrimination in paying its Negro teachers. The suit which appears almost legendary was pushed for nearly seven years before the teachers achieved their victory. Plaintiffs in the suit were Samuel L. Davis, Washington High School teacher, and other teachers similarly situated. A subsequent decree by the judge ordered the Board to equalized the pay of Negro teachers

to those received by white by September 1, 1949.

There is currently an appeal pending in the case.

INCREASE IN VOTER REGISTRATION

During the earlier part of the year, the All Citizens Registration Committee, of which C. A. Bacote was named president, launched an extensive voters registration drive among Negroes. Results showed that 3,000 new voters were added to the voters list. The campaign was waged block by block with several organizations offering their unstinting support.

PARENTS' WAR ON SCHOOL FACILITIES

Following a disclosure of overcrowdedness in Negro Public schools of the city whereby gross inadequacies were cited through the press and releases from the Urban League, the Atlanta Parents' Council for Better Public Schools petitioned the Atlanta Board of Education to bring about immediate remedial measures. Exposés by the press and Urban League showed that nearly all the elementary schools had double sessions and some had triple sessions. A survey of financial reports by the League showed that the Board followed a persistent pattern of racial discrimination in instructional unit costs for Negro and white students.

The board in a counter-petition denied the accusations leveled by the aroused parents.

Subsequent developments showed that additions were being constructed at many of the schools and construction for one new school in progress.

The City also approved two new park sites for Negroes.

HOSPITAL EXPANSION ANNOUNCED

In October, Hughes Spaulding, chairman of the Fulton-Dekalb Hospital Authority announced that architects had been contracted to draw up plans for a new one-and-a-half million dollar private hospital for Negroes. The announcement highlighted repeated airings of inadequate hospital space for Negroes of the city. The plan stipulates that one third of the cost will be defrayed by federal funds, one-third by the state and one-third by private sources excluding subscriptions.

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

by Cardell W. McVickers

The honor of being America's first ambassador of color goes to Edward R. Dudley, who has been elevated from envoy to minister of Liberia. . . . Ralph Metcalf, former Olympic sprint star, has been sworn in as the first colored member of the Illinois Athletic Commission. The appointment kept a campaign promise of the State's liberal new Governor, Adlai Stevenson.

Louis L. Hughes, 41, and Edward W. Carter, 37, became Norfolk's first colored master plumbers. They had "systematically" failed the city's examinations over a period of years. Desperate, they hinted resort to the Federal courts. Hastily called to city hall for another "examination," they passed with high marks. They are Hampton graduates.

Bank Marks Anniversary

Nashville's Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Co. celebrated its 45th anniversary Saturday. Dr. Henry A. Boyd is president. . . . John Dowdy Jr., one of the owners of the United Cab Co., was the first of his race in Memphis to win the daily "driving man" prize in the safety contest sponsored by the insurers of Memphis. . . . The city council of Columbia, S.C., finally got around to voting for the employment of qualified colored policemen.

Connecticut became the second State last week to outlaw segregation in its national guard units. New Jersey was the first. Minnesota is slated to become the third. The N. Y. Senate has already passed a law banning national guard segregation and sent it to the slower moving House. . . . The University of Connecticut study body voted overwhelmingly to outlaw racial discrimination in campus fraternities and sororities.

Instructor at Wayne

Collins J. Reynolds, teacher in Detroit's Garfield School, has been named a special instructor at Wayne University. . . . The Kentucky Public Health Association moved its session from Louisville's Brown Hotel, which required colored members to use a service elevator. The conference met pleasantly across the street at the Warren Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The New Mexico State Senate approved an FEPC bill, 13-10 over the vigorous posttest of the Chamber of Commerce lobbyists. . . . No hotel, restaurant, store or

public conveyance can bar colored patrons under the wide sweeping civil rights bill passed in New Jersey last week. . . . The St. Louis County Medical Society went on record suggesting that membership in Missouri State Medical Society be no longer restricted to "white only."

ROSCOE DUNJEE, Editor

An independent newspaper, not bound by party label; fighting for the political, economic and social freedom of the Negro.

Ada Lois Sipuel, Henry Wallace, Dixiecrats

Ada Lois Sipuel, Henry Wallace and the Dixiecrats were healthy and constructive influences in the life of the nation during the past year. Out of the social ferment created by these personalities America was able to test its heart and conscience. Out of the experiences of these rugged citizens God revealed to the Negro the substantial advancement that has been made in race relations in this country.

Although there were thousands of Negroes who doubted the wisdom of the NAACP in attempting to enroll a Negro girl at the University of Oklahoma, and many who openly said that it would never be effected, a Negro today sits in the classes at Norman, proving conclusively, as the NAACP has always contended, that constitutional efforts prosecuted through American courts, are effective, and that this nation, irrespective of its past emersion in chattel slavery, has high ideals, measured by the yardstick of the Independence declaration which says "all men are created equal."

The experience in the Ada Lois Sipuel-Fisher case should shame every Uncle Tom Negro who shuddered in early January of 1946, when the late Dr. W. A. J. Bullock and this writer took the youthful Sipuel girl down to Norman and offered her for enrollment. It was that bold stroke of wisdom that stabbed right through the conscience, not alone of the state and nation, but it has also contributed to world discussion regarding the rights of the lowly. Citizens in Western Europe, Africa and the Caribbean have written letters and offered assistance. Even Russia has used this situation created by the NAACP to bring American race prejudice to the attention of the United Nations. Surely there was not better method of bringing the plight of the American blacks who live in the southern section of the United States, to the attention of the world than the Sipuel case.

But for the Sipuel case how would Negroes in Oklahoma have ever known the thousands of fair-minded whites who would stand up and be counted by the side of right. The furore at Oklahoma university did not end with the proffer of enrollment, but thousands of white students arose en masse to demand that this lone Negro girl be given equal educational opportunity within the confines of this state, proving again that God helps those who help themselves. The Sipuel case has done more to bring to the attention of the nation the question of educational inequality than any other experience we have had during 1948. It proves that constructive propaganda enlightens the people and that they

NAACP in its unwillingness to accept segregation at the university. In fact, some of those white liberals who started out with us in the Sipuel fight, have faltered since decision was made not to bow to sub-standard class room status, but the NAACP is convinced of the righteousness of its cause. It knows that segregation is basic in the idea that one human being is better than another, and that is the reason it decided to take the long, hard road as it fights up the rugged hills of the toward full citizenship and human dignity.

Those who are afraid we will lose our white friends are going to have an opportunity to expose the integrity vest-wrong. They will see the light and recognize truth when we finally in the courts of the land acquire a legal decision which says that segregation is discrimination per se. There is no other road the NAACP and self-respecting Negroes can take but one that seeks to blast second-class citizenship out of our social institutions.

The challenge to Oklahoma Negroes is to stand hard by their guns in the coming months, seeing to it that the Oklahoma legislature is supplied proper information to guide it in wise deliberation upon this controversial issue. The Sipuel case has already liberated Negroes in Arkansas, Maryland and Delaware. It would be a travesty if we faltered now in our efforts to correct a great wrong committed against black youth in Oklahoma.

Early in the year, following the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, the chief executive sent a message to congress dealing with this question, and he later amplified upon this subject when he delivered his historic address at the annual conference of the NAACP. By June, when the Democratic convention was to be held the president's political stock had sunk to low ebb. There were those who argued his civil rights position had destroyed the Man from Missouri, for those who predicted his downfall because he opposed wrong, had not properly gauged the American conscience. At this point the Dixiecrat revolt broke into the open. There were leaders in the Deep South who declared they would wreck the Democratic party before they would agree to any program granting the Negro equality in American life. The battle was on.

It was in this moment that Henry Wallace came on the scene as a presidential candidate. His determination was to put civil rights into practice during his campaign, a hectic experience which many times unfolded in violence and savage threats to do bodily harm. Wallace's running mate was arrested in Birmingham, and later fined, when he attempted to address a meeting convened by the Southern Negro Youth Congress. The Wallace meetings in the Southland served during the campaign to reveal to America the threat race prejudice brings to free speech, free assembly and all of those precious guarantees resting in the Bill of Rights to the constitution. It served also as an instrumentality by which the President could observe the penalties visited upon a white American who adopts a practical, brotherly approach to human rights.

Despite the heroic position of the Iowa gladiator for civil liberties the Negro vote in the November election showed its traditional conservative trend, and inclined its strength to the man who at the present time occupies the White House. The Wallace rebellion against the status quo should force the issue before congress and the President. It should compel Mr. Truman to show his good faith by doing some things that constitutional processes allow him to do on his own responsibility. It is a challenge to Negro leadership to demand that the President act to correct this demoralizing, immoral approach to race relations.

But the most revealing experience of the year came during the Dixiecrat revolt. God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. Who would have thought at the turn of the year, when the governors of Mississippi and South Carolina began frothing at the mouth, that they had such slight following? To use an old aphorism, "The mountain labored and brought forth a mouse." Nothing during 1948 disclosed so clearly how extremely weak is reaction, than the Dixiecrat rebellion.

In 1949, President Truman and the Democratic party

are going to have an opportunity to expose the integrity vest-wrong. They will see the light and recognize truth when we finally in the courts of the land acquire a legal decision which says that segregation is discrimination per se. There is no other road the NAACP and self-respecting Negroes can take but one that seeks to blast second-class citizenship out of our social institutions.

Behind The Headlines

Progressive Signs Of Our Times

By ALBERT L. HINTON

THE highly significant forward strides made by Negro Americans during the past two decades in their perpetual quest for economic, educational and political equality, are being brought into sharper focus almost daily. Nothing serves better to heavily underscore this fact than a comparison between conditions affecting the race twenty years ago, and those which obtain today.

Under the grandiose caption, "Findings of the First Stock-Taking and Fact-Finding Conference on The American Negro," the result of a meeting held in Durham, N. C. Dec. 7-9, 1927, a rather pessimistic picture of the Negro's lot in this "land of the free and the home of the brave," was painted. Quite by accident I came across a copy of this two-decades-old report recently which showed, among other things, that:

In the South during the fifty years immediately preceding the year 1927, while the population had increased 100 per cent or more, the number of voters had not increased at all despite woman suffrage and for every Negro legally disfranchised, at least one white person in the South disfranchised himself. With reference to education, the report observed sourly that "there is no reliable and definite publication of data concerning Negro education, and particularly concerning the irregularities and inequalities between white and Negro schools in the South."

"We know in general that common schools for Negroes are inadequately provided for both with regard to housing, teaching and supervision; that there are very few high schools, and that the provision for the higher training of Negroes in the nation, is not only small in Negro colleges, but is limited by discrimination in white colleges. The education of the American Negro is still without a definite guiding policy."

HOW DIFFERENT THE picture is today! While racial discrimination still exists in varying degrees in the bulk of the nation's institutions of higher learning, it is a fact that a Negro is enrolled in the graduate division of the University of Oklahoma, another at the University of Delaware, and a colored girl in studying medicine at the Arkansas State University.

Nor can the charge now be sustained that Negro education is without a definite guiding policy, as witness the fact that several counties in Virginia have been ordered by a Federal Court judge to equalize their public school facilities, a ruling which will set the pattern for future guidance by all of the Southern states in their racial educational policies.

As regards the right of franchise, as the result of a United States Supreme Court decision in 1946, the racial barriers in Southern "white" primaries have been broken down for the first time in fifty years. And, according to a report released only last week by the Southern Regional Council, "The outlook is dark for those who would deprive citizens of their right to vote by shrewd juggling of language. The Constitution of the United States is still very much alive. . . . The shift has been away from legalism and its concern with words, and toward humanism and its concern with people."

THE 1927 FACT-FINDING REPORT noted with some degree of alarm, that in general Negro workers were poorly paid, especially on the farms, that they were discriminated against in industry, both in the kinds of work they were permitted to do, in the wages received, and in their chances for promotion.



MR. HINTON

Today, fair employment practice commissions are now operating successfully in several states, and proposals for the enactment of FEPC laws have been made in the States of Nebraska, Mexico, Oregon and West Virginia. Moreover, among several anti-bias bills before the New York State Legislature are proposals to outlaw discrimination by fire and casualty insurance companies, and to revise and implement existing laws barring discrimination in public accommodations.

Other states where anti-discrimination measures have either been recommended, or are pending are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Utah.

The 1927 fact-finding report deplored the existence of oppressive tenancy laws, unjust mortgage systems and price manipulations which oppressed the farmer; poor housing, low wages and long hours. It also noted pessimistically that migration from North to South, and from rural to urban areas had seriously disrupted Negro family life, and that such improvements as were being made in housing conditions tended to benefit the well-to-do, rather than the poorer classes.

Other states where anti-discrimination measures have either been recommended, or are pending are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Utah.

The 1927 fact-finding report deplored the existence of oppressive tenancy laws, unjust mortgage systems and price manipulations which oppressed the farmer; poor housing, low wages and long hours. It also noted pessimistically that migration from North to South, and from rural to urban areas had seriously disrupted Negro family life, and that such improvements as were being made in housing conditions tended to benefit the well-to-do, rather than the poorer classes.

BUT HERE ARE SOME progressive signs of our times: a ruling by the United States Supreme Court outlawing racial segregation in interstate bus travel; decision by the Washington, D. C. Court of Appeals

By George S. Schuyler

The South

Views and Reviews

Figures Prove Negroes Are Making Progress in South

(This column represents the personal opinion of Mr. Schuyler and in no way reflects the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors)

SOME figures culled from a recent article by George S. Mitchell, executive director, Southern Regional Council, are worth noting by the professional bleeding hearts who are always weeping over the plight of the "terrorized" Negroes in the South and can see nothing below the Mason-Dixon line except grief.



George S. Schuyler

Studying the period 1930 to 1945, Mr. Mitchell finds that in thirteen Southern States there are 1,396,000 white farm owners and 186,000 Negro farm owners (which is three times the number of Negro-owned retail businesses in the country).

The increase in Negro farm owners during the fifteen years was 4.2 per cent (as against 23.1 per cent white increase), and singularly enough the greatest increases in Negro farm ownership were in the very States where horror is supposed to reign for the Negro: i.e., Florida, 16 per cent; Alabama, 15.4 per cent; Louisiana, 12.6 per cent; South Carolina, 12.3 per cent; Mississippi, 11.9 per cent; Georgia, 11.5 per cent; Oklahoma, 21.5 per cent. Says Mitchell, "In the States of the lower South both whites and Negroes made remarkable gains in numbers of farm owners." Apparently every ambitious and successful Negro is not being driven out and murdered as our devoted propagandists would have us think. *Sah. 6-25-49*

IF THE PRESENT trend continues there will soon be no tenants or sharecroppers over whom to weep and collect funds for defense. All of the Southern States reduced the number of farm tenants, colored and white, very drastically, but it was in the deep South that they declined most rapidly. Nor was this due to shotgun and noose. Considering the figures of Negro decline over this fifteen-year period, we have Oklahoma, 68.1; Texas, 63.5;

Arkansas, 41.6; Kentucky, 41.5; Louisiana, 41; Alabama, 37.3; Florida, 27.1; Mississippi, 27; Tennessee, 26.2; Georgia, 23.3; Virginia, 22.1; South Carolina, 16.6; North Carolina, 4.8.

In this connection it is significant that when we turn to the decline in sharecroppers it is the deep South again which shows the greatest figures for both "races," and in many places there are scarcely any left. The Negro decline for the period was: Oklahoma, 92.2; Texas, 72.8; Arkansas, 44; Alabama, 42.2; Louisiana, 40.7; Virginia, 17.3; South Carolina, 11.8.

HALF THE WHITE sharecroppers and a third of the Negroes left that status in a period of fifteen years. What has happened to tenantry and sharecropping since the war ended, we do not know, because figures are not available, but it stands to reason that the trend described must have been greatly accelerated. While proportionately more Negroes than whites left agriculture, far less climbed into ownership. Apparently most of them left for urban centers, Southern and Northern, where they became more interested in owning an automobile than a piece of land. There is little or no evidence that they were driven out by terrorism. If so, how explain Mr. Mitchell's conclusion that "the border States yield figures less encouraging to Negro agriculture, and the States of the lower South show the best gains in Negro farm ownership." *Sah. 6-25-49*

THE ROOSEVELT-WALLACE agricultural fantasies did not help the Negro farmer (as they did not help the Negro worker—nor any other worker). During the 1930-1940 period Negro farm ownership declined 4.5 during the period of New Deal "salvation," while by contrast it increased 9.1 during the war years, 1940-1945, when Roosevelt's militarists were plowing under American boys instead of American crops. Ironically, "the only three States which did not show losses in Negro owners in the depression-New Deal period were Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina," according to Mr. Mitchell.

He also adds that, "My own travels about the South convince me that almost every factor pertaining to government and

culture is on a better level in areas in which a high percentage of farms are worked by owners or by tenants whose landlords own only one, two or three farms . . . race relations are better in those rural areas in which Negro and white farmers have holdings and tenure that are similar in size and kind."

I AM PLEASED to have these figures and conclusions since they bear out my observations of great advancement in the erstwhile "Rope and Fagot Belt." There are some among us who are not honest enough to admit the facts of Southern Negro progress or they feel that it would undermine their whole philosophy. So they continue to chatter the cliches and figures of forty years ago and refuse to recognize the statistics and observable facts of today.

This barrage of propaganda largely serves the purpose of discouraging young, intelligent Negroes, who could easily become farm proprietors, from settling in the Southern farm regions. The result is that whites are getting ownership of a disproportionate amount of the land. It is noteworthy that in the United States the greatest income is derived from agriculture and stock raising. Equally noteworthy is the fact that outside the South, in the free North, where no obstacles face them because of color, Negro farm ownership declined over 17 per cent between 1930-1945.